

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-16 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 SAJ-01 DRC-01 /119 W

----- 128862

R 181000Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SOFIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7718

INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

USMISSION BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL MUNICH

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SOFIA 0366

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, BU, CU

SUBJECT: RAUL CASTRO IN BULGARIA

REFS: A. SOFIA 0309; B. MOSCOW 2525

1. CUBA'S RAUL CASTRO RUZ PAID A FIVE DAY "FRIENDLY UNOFFICIAL VISIT" TO BULGARIA MARCH 9-14 AT THE INVITATION OF BCP FIRST SECRETARY AND STATE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN TODOR ZHIVKOV.

2. HIGH LEVEL TREATMENT, BEGINNING WITH AIRPORT RECEPTION ON ARRIVAL BY BORIS VELCHEV, PETUR TANCHEV, IVAN ABADZHIEV, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS DEPUTY CHAIRMAN MAKO DAKOV AND FONMIN MLADENOV, WAS MAINTAINED THROUGH VISIT. PROGRAM INCLUDED MEETING WITH TODOR ZHIVKOV AND BCP AND GOB LEADERSHIP, FOLLOWED BY DINNER IN CASTRO'S HONOR HOSTED BY BCP CC AND COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, AND MEETINGS AT
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BULGARIAN DEFENSE MINISTRY (CASTRO IS CUBAN DEFMIN IN ADDITION

TO BEING CUBAN CC SECOND SECRETARY) AND DINNER
HOSTED BY DEFMIN LEADERSHIP. DESPITE PROMINENT MEDIA
COVERAGE OF VISIT EMBASSY BELIEVES NOTHING OF PARTICULAR
IMPORTANCE TRANSPIRED.

3. MOST NOTEWORTHY ELEMENT IN VISIT WAS BORIS VELCHEV'S
CONSPICUOUS PRESENCE, PROMINENTLY MENTIONED IN MEDIA
COVERAGE OF CASTRO'S ACTIVITIES. THIS VELCHEV'S HIGHEST
PROFILE SINCE HIS AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT IN OCTOBER WHEN
HE DROPPED OUT OF CIRCULATION COMPLETELY UNTIL LATE LAST YEAR.
BATJER

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